of declining interest rates to agriculture sector, public sector banks have reduced their lending rates for agriculture to a maximum 9 per cent per annum on crops loans upto a ceiling of Rs. 50,000.

Statement

The yield rates in India as compared to the international average in respect of wheat, rice, total pulses and foodgrains

(Yield in kg./hectare)

	World		China		USA		Russia		India	
Year	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
Rice	3885	3895	6334	6234	6675	7037	2736	2503	2966	3008
Wheat	2758	2698	3947	3729	2873	2820	1569	1804	2583	2777
Total Pulses	812	770	1472	1477	1981	1879	973	962	628	564
Foodgrains	2878	2819	4831	4792	5674	5810	1442	1595	1976	2026

Starvation deaths

361. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any reports of starvation deaths from Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and other States during the current year;

(b) if so, the details of such reports from different States; and

(c) whether it is a fact that State Governments usually discount starvation deaths and find alibis saying deaths were not due to hunger but due to lack of medical facilities and different ailments like diarrhoea, caused by under nourishment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) No report of starvation deaths has been received in the Ministry of Agriculture from anywhere in the country.